

**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**

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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION AS A PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE IN CALIFORNIA**

Pursuant to Section 2818 (a) of the Business and Professions Code the Legislature recognizes that public health nursing is a service of crucial importance for the health, safety, and sanitation of the population in all of California's communities. These services currently include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Control and prevention of communicable disease.
- ◆ Promotion of maternal, child, and adolescent health.
- ◆ Prevention of abuse and neglect of children, elders, and spouses.
- ◆ Outreach screening, case management, resource coordination and assessment, and delivery and evaluation of care for individuals, families, and communities.

In addition, Section 2818 (c) states that no individual shall hold himself or herself out as a public health nurse or use a title which includes the term "public health nurse" unless that individual is in possession of a valid California public health nurse certificate issued pursuant to this article.

**TO APPLY FOR CERTIFICATION, PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:**

- ◆ A completed Public Health Nurse certification application.
- ◆ An application fee of \$75.00, which is considered an earned fee and not refundable.
- ◆ Evidence of a permanent California RN license which is current, clear and active.  
(A temporary license or interim permit is not acceptable.)
- ◆ All out-of-state graduates must have the shaded verification section completed by their school of nursing.
- ◆ Documentation regarding educational background:

**I. TRANSCRIPTS**

- a. Submission of an official transcript for a baccalaureate degree in nursing from a school accredited by the National League of Nursing (NLN) which includes course work in public health nursing. If you are a California BSN graduate and your name is listed on the graduate roster from your school of nursing, a transcript will not be required.

**OR**

- b. Submission of an official transcript for a baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nursing school which has not been NLN accredited which includes course work in public health nursing.

OR

- c. Submission of an official transcript for a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing and completion of a specialized public health nursing program associated with a baccalaureate school of nursing accredited by NLN. Work experience is not acceptable.

## **II. CHILD ABUSE COURSE WORK**

Training in the detection, prevention, reporting requirements and treatment of child neglect and abuse which shall be at least 7 hours in length and shall include but not be limited to prevention techniques, early detection techniques, California reporting requirements and intervention techniques.

**Acceptable training in child neglect and abuse shall be acquired through:**

- a. A baccalaureate or specialized program in nursing.

OR

- b. A course of instruction in the prevention, detection, reporting requirements and treatment of child neglect and abuse that covers the subject matter specified above and is approved for continuing education (CE) credit by the Board of Registered Nursing.

**NOTE:** California BSN graduates prior to 1981, must take the 7 hour course approved by the Board of Registered Nursing. All out-of-state child abuse courses must include coverage of the **California Reporting Law** requirements per Section 11166.5 of the California Penal Code.